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31 MARCH 1983Belafonte, EX-CIA Agent Slam U.S.
SOUTH KINGSTOWN, R.I.

Singer Harry Belafonte joined CIA whistleblower John Stockwell at a university speaking engagement in which they compared U.S. foreign policy to that of Nazi Germany's.

Belafonte asked University of Rhode Island students Wednesday night "why we are always finding ourselves on the wrong side in the Third World? Why are we always on the side of the oppressor?"

The singer joined former CIA official Stockwell in a searing attack on U.S. policy, especially involving Latin America and South Africa.

"We are at the threshold of becoming what Hitler's Germany was when, at the height of its culture ... there came Auschwitz and Dachau and all the other things," Belafonte said. "Are we prepared to watch this?"

Stockwell said his disillusionment with the CIA grew during 13 years as a spymaster. He said the agency lied about its covert operations in Angola.

"We did not want to tell people that we were paying white South African mercenaries to kill black people in Africa," said Stockwell, who has been labeled a traitor in the U.S. Senate.

"I submit to you that if the CIA existed in 1933, it would have supported Hitler and had very good relations with the Gestapo," Stockwell said.

About 250 students gave Stockwell a standing ovation. After his address, about 65 students joined him at a nearby pub for beer and more discussion.